

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DACCA 05875 171037Z

53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

OMB-01 /063 W

----- 004592

R 170940Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2706

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANU

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 5875

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, BG

SUBJ: BDG ANNOUNCES UNION COUNCIL ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN JANUARY

REF: (A) DACCA 5813; (B) DACCA 5509

1. BDG ANNOUNCED NOVEMBER 16 THAT ELECTIONS TO UNION COUNCILS WOULD BE HELD DURING SECOND WEEK OF JANUARY, 1977. NO MENTION WAS MADE OF GENERAL ELECTION AND WHETHER LOCAL ELECTIONS ARE PRELUDE TO OR A SUBSTITUTE FOR A PARLIAMENTARY POLL.

2. AS REPORTED AND DISCUSSED IN REF (B), RUMOR HAS BEEN CURRENT THAT LOCAL ELECTIONS WOULD BE HVELD PRIOR TO (IF NOT IN LIEU OF) GENERAL ELECTION TO TEST BOTH MECHANISM FOR POLLING AND SENTIMENT AMONG VOTERS. LOCAL ELECTIONS IN BENGAL ARE HOTLY CONTESTED AND HAVE IN PAST GENERATED VIOLENCE IN SOME PLACES IN SOME ELCTIONS; BDG WILL NOW BE ABLE TO LOOK AT THIS ASPECT. ALTHOUGH POLLING WILL TECHNICALLY BE ON NON-PARTISAN BASIS, A NONE TOO DIFFICULT ANALYTICAL PROCESS WILL SHOW GOVERNMENT WHICH PARTY IS STRONGEST AND WILL ALSO GIVE INDICATION OF FRAGMENTATION

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DACCA 05875 171037Z

OF ELECTORATE AND THUS POSSIBLY SHOW PROSPECT FOR STABLE

MINISTRY WHEN AND IF PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION IS HELD.

3. PARTY WHICH BDG AND OTHER POLITICIANS WILL BE WATCHING MOST CLOSELY IS AWAMI LEAGUE. AMONG EXPERIENCED OBSERVERS THERE IS MUCH QUESTION AS TO STRENGTH OF AWAMI LEAGUE AND EFFECTS OF CORRUPTION AND MISMANAGEMENT OF MUJIB PERIOD ON ITS ORGANIZATION AND FOLLOWING.

4. LEADERS OF TWO POLITICAL PARTIES (MUSHTAQUE OF DEMOCRATIC LEAGUE AND KHAN SABUR OF MUSLIM LEAGUE) WHO HAVE SOME HOPE AND PROSPECT OF POLLING WELL IN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS AND BEING PRINCIPAL CHALLENGE TO AWAMI LEAGUE BOTH OPPOSE INTERVENTION OF LOCAL ELECTION PRIOR TO AMJOR POLLING. SABUR, HOWEVER, TOLD POLCOUNSELOR NOVEMBER 16 THAT SETTING OF SCHEDULE WAS A KEY TO ENDING UNCERTAINTY ON MLA INTENTIONS. WHILE HE WAS SPEAKING OF PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION THIS STEP BY BDG GOES PART WAY TOWARD MEETING HIS AND OTHER LEADERS REQUIREMENTS ALTHOUGH IT WILL NOT END SPECULATION POLLING FOR PARLIAMENT AND ROLE OF MILITARY IN FUTURE GOVERNANCE OF BANGLADESH. MASTER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR UNIONS, ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DACCA05875
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760428-0988
From: DACCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761141/aaaabjbz.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 DACCA 5813, 76 DACCA 5509
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUN 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <04 OCT 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BDG ANNOUNCES UNION COUNCIL ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN JANUARY
TAGS: PINT, BG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006